

USAID/Tajikistan

Operational Plan

FY 2006

June 13, 2006

Please Note:

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Program Performance Summary FY 2005: DEMOCRATIC REFORM

Country Situation: Although still an authoritarian state, Tajikistan's political system remains more pluralistic than that of other countries in the region. Tajikistan is the only country in Central Asia with a legally-recognized Islamic opposition party, one which also holds positions in government. However, as Tajikistan prepares for the presidential elections in 2006, President Rahmonov and the ruling party are utilizing subtle and not so subtle tactics to harass and silence the opposition, illustrating that the country still has some ways to go before a democratic political culture can be said to exist, as confirmed by flawed Parliamentary elections in February 2005. Opposition party leaders face questionable criminal charges, including the October 2005 sentencing of Mahmadrusi Iskandarov of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan to 23 years of imprisonment. While the charges in this case could be argued as being credible, Iskandarov's extradition from Russia and lack of access to family and legal representation is a clear abuse of government power. Additionally, Cabinet reshuffles continue to diminish the role of the opposition in the government structure.

While there is a flourishing civil society and a restricted but energetic group of private media outlets, both demonstrate a strong reluctance to engage the Government on controversial or overtly political issues. In 2005, several media outlets were forced to close, including Nerui Sukhan newspaper, Ruzi Nav newspaper, and the independent TV station Somoniyon in Dushanbe.

Tajikistan is moving away from violent conflict. Although there are ethnically-diverse border regions, areas of high population density, lack of social and physical infrastructure to meet demand, and declining economic opportunities, the potential for conflict is minimal. Tajiks, in general, only recently emerged from a civil war and freshly remember the associated hardships. Many elements of Tajik society are working diligently to reintegrate into the Central Asian region and are committed to building internal stability.

The status of women has declined significantly since the breakup of the Soviet Union, leading USAID to consider gender as a key cross-cutting objective in its programs. Economic hardship has resulted in labor migration of men to Russia, leaving many women-headed households and leading to declines in girls' attendance at school. In response, USAID's programs in democratic reform promote increased roles for women through political party and non-governmental organization (NGO) development.

U.S. Assistance Priorities: In efforts to strengthen civil society, USAID provides training, assistance, and small grants to NGOs. USAID also supports independent television, radio and print media with training, legal assistance, and production of a weekly news program. Civic education and political processes, local government, and legal education are additional priorities for Tajikistan. An anti-trafficking in persons program works on prevention and drafting of anti-trafficking legislation and improved prosecution of traffickers.

Program Performance: While the overall assessment suggests political reform in Tajikistan has reached a plateau, the past year saw limited signs of progress in the democracy sector. The Social Democratic Party (the last major opposition party to be legally recognized) was finally registered, enabling it to participate in the 2005 parliamentary elections. However, the Government prosecuted two members of the party following the parliamentary elections, detained another member, and intimidated others. The success of USAID's new local government project prompted the Government to request USAID support in drafting a new local government law. Drawing on experiences in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the USAID-funded technical assistance team helped draft two pieces of legislation that offer hope of direct elections for local governing councils. The civic education program secured strong commitment from the Ministry of Education through a Memorandum of Understanding, which provides USAID unlimited usage of the civic education textbook in schools and provides for civics education teacher training during the academic year. As a result, the program reached over 9,790 students in 138 schools. A weekly USAID-supported news program, Nabzi Zindagi (The Pulse of Life), was broadcast over 17 radio stations, reaching a potential audience of more than 1.5 million citizens.

USAID's conflict prevention programs seek to enhance collaboration and communication between

communities and local government structures, and experiment with other ways to create and strengthen participatory mechanisms within and among communities. The program targets Sugd Oblast and the Rasht Valley and focuses less on infrastructure projects and more on economic development; training for youth to become leaders among their peers and a mobilizing force for community change; providing a range of services to facilitate business development; and encouraging a stronger link between the private sector, local authorities, and citizens for problem-solving. This brought our previous infrastructure and social project focus to a new level of potential conflict prevention. Perceived levels of tension and conflict within targeted communities are less than those encountered in communities not under the USAID program, as skills are imparted to promote mutual understanding and problem solving.

ECONOMIC REFORM

Country Situation: Economic growth slowed slightly this year to 7.8% (down from 10.2% in 2003), but is still above average in comparison with other former Soviet Union countries. However, this growth does not totally reflect economic conditions, as Tajikistan has the smallest GDP of the region. According to World Bank estimates, Tajikistan's total external debt continues to grow, owed mostly to Russia, the World Bank, and Uzbekistan, and is just over \$1.05 billion. Total debt at the end of 2005 is expected to be \$1.124 billion. Nonetheless, external debt has declined to 65% of GDP, in part due to a \$299 million debt-asset swap with Russia in 2004. During the last few years, the Government of Tajikistan has entered into a number of other agreements with Russia to further reduce the debt in exchange for military base rights, investment rights, and equity positions in several hydropower projects. Approximately one-third of total government revenues are required to service the country's debt. Economic conditions are further reflected by the fact that 64% of the population lives below the poverty line, with 36% living in extreme poverty.

With peace and improved security raising hopes for the future, Tajikistan is still struggling to restructure and reorient its public and private institutions. While the country's leadership recognizes the need for fundamental reforms, the under-financed and poorly-staffed line ministries are often unable to develop or implement the changes that are needed. Efforts to reform also are hampered by strong vested interests and oligarchs embedded within the government structures. Despite improved tax collection, all levels of government lack the resources needed to adequately finance social services. The weak judicial system is unprepared to cope with the demands of a market economy and corruption is a pervasive problem that inhibits the growth of private businesses. Deteriorated infrastructure, declining social services, and a largely subsistence (and somewhat criminalized) economy further limit the potential for economic growth. Some reforms, such as land privatization, have been poorly implemented, and others, such as banking and taxes, have only just begun. In such an environment, the impact of reform will be slow, as new legal and regulatory regimes are developed and the modestly expanding economy allows only incremental increases in social sector spending.

U.S. Assistance Priorities: USAID's strategy to foster economic growth combines support for small and medium sized enterprises, business education, microfinance, and the agricultural sector with policy reform. This includes judicial and commercial law reform, support to the Ministry of State Revenues for tax reform, assistance to the National Bank for banking sector reform and microfinance legislation development, as well as an update of the land tenure legislation. USAID also provides assistance to water user associations in Tajikistan to help farmers manage the Soviet-era irrigation networks, improve on-farm management, and increase agricultural production.

Program Performance: Significant progress was made in FY 2005 in economic reform, but much more remains to be done. In general, the Government of Tajikistan is moving broadly to complete the transition to a market economy. USAID activities specifically help to modernize tax administration, strengthen banking supervision, and draft or revise commercial legislation. Work with the National Bank to bring supervisory standards closer to compliance with international norms is helping raise public confidence in the banking system, and will be critical to mobilizing domestic savings for investment. USAID's partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to expand commercial bank lending to small and micro enterprises is starting to have real impact. The Government continues to press

on its commitment to adopt International Accounting Standards (IAS) by the end of 2005, essential to attracting foreign investment. A USAID-developed training and certification program has now recognized Certified Accounting Practitioners and has established IAS-based accounting curricula in 15 colleges and universities in the country. In addition, assistance from USAID-funded expertise continues to prepare the Government for World Trade Organization accession.

Improving management of Tajikistan's significant water and energy resources is critical to the country's economy. The new project to create and put in place effective, viable, and sustainable irrigation Water User Associations (WUAs) successfully registered 11 associations in selected areas of Tajikistan. They are given greater responsibility for operation and management of their irrigation-drainage systems and are already making long overdue repairs to the infrastructure systems. Sustainable and viable WUAs are the best hope to reduce organization and management costs and to increase productivity of land and water resources. The Central Asia Farmer-to-Farmer Program will continue to provide volunteer technical assistance to selected commodity and activity sectors and geographic areas. Activities in this sector support the Presidential Initiatives Water for the Poor and Clean Energy. Another new project is AgFin+, the objectives of which are to support pilot groups of farmers to move products to markets, resulting in increased farmer incomes and stimulating investment in the agriculture value-chain. USAID will assist farmers to: 1) complete business plans and market linkages, 2) secure financing, 3) receive off-season trainings, and 4) position appropriate resources to deliver on-farm support during the growing season. It is too soon to report on results.

SOCIAL REFORM AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Country Situation: The Government of Tajikistan also is moving broadly to improve social services. The Government is revamping health care financing and reorienting the health structure to place greater emphasis on preventive health care. Furthermore, the Government is taking steps to address infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria. Although much progress has been made in health reform, more needs to be accomplished to establish an accountable and transparent health care system. In education, budgetary constraints are a major obstacle to bringing in the reforms needed to maintain Tajikistan's historically high levels of education, but efforts are being made to reform the curriculum, strengthen teacher training, and explore new mechanisms for sector financing. The USAID program in Tajikistan directly supports these reform agendas, while also funding programs that provide direct support to communities and the provision of social services.

Food security remains a critical issue, as evidenced by high rates of chronic malnutrition. The most recent National Nutrition Survey showed that the number of children subject to severe acute malnutrition increased by 2.5 times this past year. Per capita caloric intake is 1,927 Kcal, well short of minimum recommended standards and less than the average for Sub-Saharan Africa. All income groups are affected by food insecurity: the poorest 20% of the population only meets 53% of its nutritional requirements while the richest 20% fares only minimally better by meeting 76%. Among all groups, particularly in the rural and outlying urban areas, women and children disproportionately bear the brunt of poor health and nutrition conditions.

U.S. Assistance Priorities: USAID's social sector programs focus on pressing the Government to accept recommendations for health care reform through delivery of quality primary health care, promotion of healthy lifestyles, infectious disease control, and improving the lives of mothers and children. By establishing a trust relationship with the Ministry of Health, USAID manages to engage the Government in critical reform areas that are not currently being addressed by social policy. USAID seeks to bring the Government of Tajikistan more closely aligned with international standards of healthcare practice and promotes open and transparent methods for surveillance and prevention of diseases and illnesses. USAID efforts in education focus on improving the quality of and access to basic education by developing teacher trainers at school-based training centers and in-service institutes, working with communities to prioritize education needs and come up with solutions, and building school director and education administrator management capacity.

The USG is implementing a \$60 million, five-year food aid program for Tajikistan through the Food Aid Consortium for Tajikistan (FACT), comprised of CARE, Counterpart, Mercy Corps, and Save the Children. The Development Assistance Program began in March 2005, and focuses on increasing food security in rural areas of Tajikistan. The activities will meet the immediate needs of the target population by fulfilling immediate dietary requirements and will address underlying causes of food insecurity. The FACT program enhances community and household resilience to shocks and strengthens the capabilities of individuals through improvements in health, nutrition, household food production, and education.

Program Performance: USAID continues to work closely with the Ministry of Health to develop new health care financing mechanisms to improve services and reduce corruption. The first steps to introduce a basic healthcare benefits package and fee-for-services reform were rolled back by the Government while it examined the impacts on the extreme poor. However, work to respond to immediate threats posed by malnutrition and such infectious diseases as TB, malaria, and HIV/AIDS made strong advances this past year. The successful nutrition monitoring and supplementation program in southern Tajikistan continued to track the health of tens of thousands of nutritionally-vulnerable children in southern Tajikistan, and provided supplemental feeding to children in need. This program is being complemented by a maternal and child health/reproductive health activity that will reach 330,000 women and children in the same province. Local health committees have already been established in 200 communities under this new project. The Roll-Back Malaria Program has successfully established surveillance centers in all four provinces and provided equipment and training to lab technicians to correctly diagnose malaria. The TB Directly-Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) strategy was successfully expanded under a new program begun in early FY 2004. TB and malaria control, although still in early phases, have begun to build capacity and improve the fledgling health system's ability to respond. A brochure targeting prostitutes with HIV/AIDS prevention information also includes referrals to USAID's Trafficking in Persons partners, taking advantage of the opportunity for this important linkage. The USAID-funded Youth Power Centers provided at-risk youth with quality drug demand reduction services, positive social support, and healthy alternatives to heroin/opiate use. Peer education sessions show improved knowledge and risk perception regarding drugs and drug use.

In education, USAID invested substantial effort in the capacity of pilot schools and pilot rural clusters located in strategic regions of Tajikistan to serve as professional training and resource centers for surrounding schools. The pilot/cluster model employed by USAID will maximize the spread of interactive teaching methodologies and effective management practices while building ownership among schools for the process and its end results. Community involvement initiatives were well received by all stakeholders at the pilot sites, successfully promoting the school-community partnership, a concept that was largely missing under the Soviet system. USAID has a Tajikistan-specific Global Development Alliance (GDA) relationship with Aga Khan Foundation to leverage the organization's long history of education programming in Gorno-Badakhshan to improve primary education and to expand programming into neighboring oblasts. Additionally, USAID has established a GDA with Nike Corporation, through which approximately \$2 million in sports equipment has been provided to thousands of Tajik children involved in sports leagues.

In regard to food security, to date, the FACT has received 47.5% of the approved food allocations under the program for FY 2005, the initial year of the program. Due to delays in the availability of commodities, CARE and Save the Children provided their activities with internal loans to forward fund critical elements of the program. Of the commodities imported for monetization, all of the wheat flour and 54% of the vegetable oil has been sold and the funds have been distributed among the FACT members. Due to delays encountered in the receipt of commodities, the FACT has not achieved all results agreed upon under the DAP in its first year of implementation. The FACT is negotiating with USAID's Office of Food for Peace to lower expectations about intended results, to bring them in line with reduced commodity shipments.

A total of 686 metric tons (MT) of food was distributed as supplementary rations to 8,276 vulnerable households (families with pregnant or lactating women and/or children under five) in the districts of Baljuvon, Khovaling, Muminobod, Yovon, and Varzob. In Yovon and Varzob districts, the FACT used 5.3 MT of food as an incentive for women to obtain antenatal check ups. Food incentive (16.5 MT) was also

used to promote the participation of medical health staff and health volunteers in programming efforts. Working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, FACT partners also provided iodized salt to beneficiaries, as part of their food rations, to help achieve the goals of the national de-worming campaign.

A total of 1,335 MT of food was distributed for school feeding to 64,605 children (including pre-schoolers), in the districts of Kulyab, Vose, Hamadoni, Vakhsh, Yovon, and Varzob. Additionally, 2,458 girls received take home rations (a total of 70 MT) in Yovon and Varzob districts as an incentive to attend school regularly. The FACT also distributed 2,510 kg of iodized salt to 37 pre-schools and 170 schools in the districts of Kulyab, Vose, Hamadoni, and Vakhsh, along with 9,840 bars of soap. In FY 2006, the FACT will begin school health and nutrition activities; teachers and nurses were identified in FY 2005 to manage these activities.

FY 2006 Program**SO: 119-0131 Improved Environment for the Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises****Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment**

Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment (\$1,427,630 FSA, \$235,793 FSA carryover, \$207,182 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will strengthen the capacity of Parliament to conduct economic and fiscal analysis. Continued assistance will be provided to the Ministry of State Revenues and Duties to improve tax policies and administration. USAID will help the Ministry of Finance to develop and implement program budgeting. Assistance will also be provided in macroeconomic analysis and monetary policy. USAID will work with business associations, governments, and other stakeholders to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of local institutions and partnerships in their pursuit to improve the business, trade, and legal environment. Principal contractors/grantees: Bearing Point (prime), Chemonics International (prime), and to be determined (TBD) (prime).

Improve Private Sector Competitiveness

Improve Private Sector Competitiveness (\$900,000 FSA, \$20,000 FSA carryover). USAID will evolve its work in the area of Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) development from firm-level assistance to strengthening local business service providers and increasing competitiveness of Tajikistan's SMEs. Future work will provide technical assistance to SME support institutions, professional business associations, and the private sector, including agribusinesses. USAID will support implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards through increased sustainability of the professional certification program and professional accounting associations, to improve transparency and competitiveness of SMEs. Principal contractors/grantees: TBD (prime) and TBD (prime).

Improve Quality of Workforce through Vocational/Technical Education

Improve Quality of Workforce through Vocational/Technical Education (\$245,778 FSA carryover). USAID will improve the quality of business and economics education at the high-school level. Principal contractor: TBD (prime). USAID will strengthen the quality of business and economics programs in higher education institutions by helping them to become more responsive to the needs of businesses, creating sustainable faculty development and advocacy mechanisms, and supporting educational institutions to move toward international standards. Principal contractor/grantee: Carana Corporation (prime).

Increase Agricultural Sector Productivity

Increase Agricultural Sector Productivity (\$684,000 FSA). USAID's Land Tenure Reform Project will work to establish market-oriented land policy, including development and adoption of new regulations, strengthening of land ownership rights, and promoting land market transactions. With improved land legislation and management, and reduced constraints for land market development, greater investment and land productivity can be realized. Principal contractor/grantee: Chemonics International (prime).

Increase Trade and Investment

Increase Trade and Investment (\$126,200 FSA, \$10,005 FSA carryover, \$51,795 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will provide assistance to implement reforms required for liberalizing Tajikistan's trade regime and increased participation in the global economy. This assistance will include support to draft new legislation and amend existing legislation required for Tajikistan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

Strengthen The Financial Services Sector & Increase Access to Capital

Strengthen the Financial Services Sector and Increase Access to Capital (\$1,182,170 FSA, \$32,480 FSA carryover). Assistance to the National Bank of Tajikistan will further strengthen the quality of banking supervision. USAID will strengthen the capacity of local banks and microfinance institutions to provide financial services to micro and small entrepreneurs on a sustainable basis. Special attention will be given to expand services to rural areas. Principal contractors/grantees: Bearing Point (prime), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and TBD (prime).

Strengthen the Legislative Function/Legal Framework

Strengthen the Legislative Function/Legal Framework (\$78,500 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will assist in assessing and improving the current framework of commercial legislation. USAID will continue to build the capacity of legal professionals and the judiciary responsible for interpreting and applying laws and regulations. Principal contractor/grantee: Associates in Rural Development (prime).

FY 2007 Program

SO: 119-0131 Improved Environment for the Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises

Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment

Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment (\$1,892,621 FSA). USAID's Economic Policy Reform Project will continue its assistance to Parliament. USAID will continue to strengthen fiscal capacity of the Government and start assistance in intergovernmental fiscal finance. Further work will be conducted with business associations and the Government to improve the environment for businesses. Principal contractors/grantees: Bearing Point (prime) and TBD (prime).

Improve Private Sector Competitiveness

Improve Private Sector Competitiveness (\$633,760 FSA). Support will be provided to expand opportunities for businesses to grow and become more competitive. USAID will continue its work on accounting reform. Principal contractors/grantees: TBD (prime) and TBD (prime).

Increase Agricultural Sector Productivity

Increase Agricultural Sector Productivity (\$501,260 FSA). Further assistance will be provided to improve land market development and productivity. Principal contractor: Chemonics International (prime).

Increase Trade and Investment

Increase Trade and Investment (\$180,000 FSA). USAID will provide assistance in implementation of reforms required for liberalization of Tajikistan's trade regime and increased participation in the global economy. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

Strengthen The Financial Services Sector & Increase Access to Capital

Strengthen the Financial Services Sector and Increase Access to Capital (804,359 FSA). The National Bank of Tajikistan will receive further assistance to improve its supervisory capabilities. USAID will also support further expansion of access to finance for micro and small entrepreneurs through banks and/or microfinance institutions. Principal contractors/grantees: Bearing Point (prime) and TBD (prime).

FY 2006 Program**SO: 119-0161 Improved Management of Critical Natural Resources, Including Energy****Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment**

Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment (\$300,000 FSA carryover). USAID will implement a Regional Energy Market Assistance Program (REMAP) to provide technical assistance for the development of an electricity market in Central Asia. REMAP has the following objectives: 1) establish a transparent, competitive electricity market in Central Asia; 2) increase electricity trade in Central Asia, making development of hydroelectricity resources financially feasible, thereby stimulating economic growth; 3) introduce market-based solutions for current and future regional disputes related to hydroelectricity facilities and reservoirs; and 4) build the capacity of regional electricity regulators to develop the electricity industry in the region, while protecting the interests of consumers. Principal contractor/grantee: to be determined (TBD) (prime).

Increase Agricultural Sector Productivity

Increase Agricultural Sector Productivity (\$1,340,000 FSA, \$19,200 FSA carryover). Agricultural Finance Plus (AgFin+) aims to stimulate economic growth throughout the farm-to-market value chain. Through training and technical assistance, AgFin+ will assist farmers in overcoming constraints they face in delivering products to targeted markets and in capturing a return on their investment. The AgFin+ Program, complementing USAID's economic development activities such as small business development, will also stimulate agriculture-related businesses such as agri-services, agri-trade, and agri-processing which are critical to the farm-to-market chain. Through improved production tied to specific markets, AgFin+ will link farmers to underserved markets, address financial constraints, provide on-farm support, and coordinate with other agricultural sector programs and institutions. Principal contractors/grantees: Development Alternatives Inc. (prime) and Winrock International (sub).

The growth of rural economies in Central Asia depends on local control of resources and increased citizen participation in decisionmaking. Local management of irrigation water resources is critical to the agricultural economy of Tajikistan. USAID will continue its assistance to Water User Associations (WUA) in Tajikistan to promote and stimulate WUA policy and procedural reforms, develop irrigation system demonstration models, conduct public outreach campaigns, and implement a grants program to assist WUAs. Principal contractors/grantees: Winrock International (prime), Academy for Educational Development (sub), and New Mexico State University (sub).

FY 2007 Program**SO: 119-0161 Improved Management of Critical Natural Resources, Including Energy****Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment**

Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment (\$300,000 FSA). USAID will continue to work with Tajik authorities on bilateral and multilateral agreements that support the development of a regional energy market through REMAP. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

Increase Agricultural Sector Productivity

Increase Agricultural Sector Productivity (\$942,000 FSA). USAID will continue to invest in agricultural development through AgFin+ by continuing work with targeted groups and markets, and assisting them to identify opportunities and overcome constraints in the farm-to-market value chain. USAID will also continue assistance to Water User Associations, including replication of efficient irrigation demonstration models; expanding public outreach to farmers, government, and other donors; and implementation of a competitive small grants program. Principal contractor/grantee: same implementers as above.

FY 2006 Program**SO: 119-0211 Strengthened Democratic Culture Among Citizens and Target Institutions****Establish & Ensure Media Freedom & Freedom Of Information**

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$693,284 FSA). USAID will provide legal advice to independent print and broadcast media on compliance with local registration and licensing requirements and protection of their rights. At the same time, USAID will increase the availability of objective information through the use of satellite broadcasting and other innovative means. Principal contractor/grantee: Internews (prime).

Reduce Trafficking In Persons

Reduce Trafficking In Persons (\$510,000 FSA, \$236,926 FSA carryover). USAID will provide funding for a shelter for women and children in a major city, to consolidate a network of 17 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on counter-trafficking issues, and for information campaigns on trafficking for commercial sex exploitation and labor. Principal contractor/grantee: International Organization for Migration (prime).

Strengthen Civil Society

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,021,100 FSA, \$325,049 FSA carryover). USAID will provide training and technical assistance to a core group of civil society organizations to increase their institutional capacity and promote financial sustainability. Principal contractors/grantees: IREX (prime) and to be determined (TBD) (prime).

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties

Strengthen Democratic Political Parties (\$350,000 FSA). USAID will provide training and technical assistance to political parties to strengthen their constituency outreach and platform development skills. Principal contractors/grantees: National Democratic Institute (prime).

Support Democratic Local Government & Decentralization

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,635,616 FSA, \$49,635 FSA carryover, \$250,000 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID will provide training and technical assistance to local governments to develop their management capacity, as a complement to equipment and financing for infrastructure provided by the World Bank. USAID will also provide expert technical assistance as the Government considers decentralization policy reforms, including the direct elections of local officials. Principal contractors/grantees: Urban Institute (prime) and TBD (prime).

FY 2007 Program**SO: 119-0211 Strengthened Democratic Culture Among Citizens and Target Institutions****Establish & Ensure Media Freedom & Freedom Of Information**

Establish and Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information (\$1,000,000 FSA). USAID will provide legal advice to journalists and media organizations as well as financing for production of news and other informational programming. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

Reduce Trafficking In Persons

Reduce Trafficking In Persons (\$27,728 FSA). USAID will provide funding to local NGOs to meet the needs of trafficking victims as well as technical assistance to these NGOs to increase their institutional sustainability. Principal contractor/grantee: International Organization for Migration (prime).

Strengthen Civil Society

Strengthen Civil Society (\$1,194,950 FSA). USAID will provide training and technical assistance to leading civil society organizations to strengthen their management and outreach skills. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

Support Democratic Local Government & Decentralization

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,692,322 FSA). USAID will provide training and technical assistance to local governments on asset management, participatory budgeting, infrastructure maintenance, and service delivery. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

FY 2006 Program

SO: 119-0240 Conflict Mitigation

Mitigate Conflict and Support Peace

Mitigate Conflict and Support Peace (\$710,000 FSA, \$527,900 FSA carryover). The final year of the Peaceful Communities Initiative will focus on building stronger relationships between citizens and local government to mitigate against conflict by more effective allocation of budgetary, natural, and physical infrastructure resources. A second aspect of the program will focus on social activities such as youth summer camps or tolerance trainings to bridge differences between ethnic communities living in close proximity. In the second year of the Tajikistan Conflict Prevention Program and Alternatives to Conflict in Tajikistan Program, the focus will continue to be on reducing the risk factors of youth unemployment and lack of economic opportunity. Activities will target youth outreach and leadership training; access to information through community radio and economic opportunity centers; and economic development through access to micro-credit, apprenticeships, vocational training, and limited infrastructure projects. Principal contractor/grantee: Mercy Corps (prime).

FY 2007 Program

SO: 119-0240 Conflict Mitigation

Mitigate Conflict and Support Peace

Mitigate Conflict and Support Peace (\$661,000 FSA). USAID will start a new generation of local economic development programs geared to reduce tensions in communities at risk for conflict due to a growing youth population, lack of economic opportunities, and limited access to information. Principal contractor/grantee: to be determined (prime).

FY 2006 Program

SO: 119-0320 Increased Utilization of Quality Primary Health Care for Select Populations

Address Other Health Vulnerabilities

Address Other Health Vulnerabilities (\$1,855,000 FSA, \$458,576 FSA prior year recoveries). USAID's health reform program, ZdravPlus II, will assist the Tajik Ministry of Health (MOH) to nationally roll-out its capitation payment system (which is being piloted in two districts), by developing and introducing appropriate regulations and a step by step operational plan. ZdravPlus will continue to support hospitals piloting clinical database programs, will assist them to analyze their cost-accounting data, and will

develop automated information for hospital managers on utilization of facilities and services. USAID will continue to support the Drug Information Center, which provides independent, objective, and evidence-based information to promote rational drug use and evidence-based medicine, including the development of clinical practice guidelines. USAID will educate communities on sexually transmitted infections and their treatment through outreach. USAID's maternal and child health program, Healthy Family, will conduct health promotion activities in schools, communities, and among men's and youth groups. Primary health care providers will be brought up to date on key topics in maternal and child health. In coordination with the MOH, obstetric service providers will be trained on the new national antenatal and delivery care guidelines, midwives will receive ob-gyn equipment following training in life-saving skills, and maternity house staff will be trained on nutrition and breastfeeding. USAID will continue to support implementation of the World Health Organization-recommended live birth definition on a pilot basis. Principal contractors/grantees: Abt Associates (prime), Morehouse University School of Medicine (sub), John Snow Inc. (sub), Boston University (sub), Scientific Technology and Language Institute (sub), Institute for Sustainable Communities (sub), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (prime), Project Hope (prime), and Save the Children (sub).

Prevent & Control Infectious Diseases Of Major Importance

Prevent and Control Infectious Diseases of Major Importance (\$738,000 FSA, \$5,016 FSA carryover). USAID will continue to support the MOH in developing its National TB Control Program, and will provide technical assistance to address HIV-TB co-infection, drug management, multi-drug resistant TB, and treatment for prisoners before and after release. The program will improve human and systems capacity for TB control, as well as support community mobilization activities addressing TB. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will continue to train epidemiologists through the Applied Epidemiology Training Program (AETP), expand its TB electronic surveillance activities, and improve TB laboratory capacities, including quality assurance. Principal contractors/grantees: CDC (prime), Project HOPE (prime), Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (sub), John Snow Inc. (sub), New Jersey Medical School National TB Center (sub), Chemonics International (sub), and CAMRIS International (sub).

Reduce Transmission & Impact Of HIV/AIDS

Reduce Transmission and Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$1,257,000 FSA, \$5,011 FSA carryover). Through the Central Asian Program on AIDS Control and Intervention Targeting Youth and High-Risk Groups (CAPACITY), USAID will continue to assist the Government of Tajikistan (GOT) with implementation of its two HIV grants from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria. Training will be provided to health professionals to improve their skills in counseling, testing, and antiretroviral treatment. CAPACITY will improve resource use through integration of HIV/AIDS services into Tajikistan's overall health system. CDC will train Tajik officials to use data from the HIV surveillance system as a tool for programmatic and policy decisionmaking. Development of Tajik blood screening systems will continue. USAID's innovative Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP) will focus on developing the Youth Power Center network aimed at preventing drug use by vulnerable young people as well as the DDRP resource center in Dushanbe, and will support low-threshold treatment readiness and drug-free treatment and rehabilitation programs. Principal contractors/grantees: John Snow Inc. (prime), Population Services International (sub), Abt Associates (sub), International HIV/AIDS Alliance (sub), Howard University (sub), Alliance for Open Society International (prime), Open Society International-Tajikistan (sub), Accord (sub), AIDS Foundation East-West (sub), Internews-Tajikistan (sub), and CDC (prime).

FY 2007 Program

SO: 119-0320 Increased Utilization of Quality Primary Health Care for Select Populations

Address Other Health Vulnerabilities

Address Other Health Vulnerabilities (\$1,695,000 FSA). ZdravPlus II will continue to support the MOH

with its capitated payment system, develop reliable and useful health information systems, and improve the quality of PHC services. Healthy Family will continue training and community mobilization activities and will prepare a national panel of decisionmakers to participate in supporting evidence-based medicine through internationally-recognized methods for the design of clinical practice guidelines. USAID will continue to support implementation of the WHO-recommended live birth definition on a pilot basis. Principal contractors/grantees: same as above; additional contractors/grantees to be determined (TBD).

Prevent & Control Infectious Diseases Of Major Importance

Prevent & Control Infectious Diseases of Major Importance (\$739,000 FSA). CDC will continue the AETP to support the Ministry of Health with identification, investigation, documentation, and dissemination of information about outbreaks of infectious diseases through a trained cadre of public health epidemiologists, and will continue work to build capacity for TB surveillance. USAID will continue to support the Ministry of Health in continued expansion and improvement of the National TB Control Program. Principal contractors/grantees: same as above; additional contractors/grantees TBD.

Reduce Transmission & Impact Of HIV/AIDS

Reduce Transmission and Impact of HIV/AIDS (\$1,154,000 FSA). USAID's CAPACITY project will continue to strengthen implementation of the national strategy to prevent and control HIV/AIDS. CDC will improve capacity for HIV surveillance and blood screening. In 2007, DDRP will transfer its best practice models for work with vulnerable youth and other target groups to local government and private counterparts. Principal contractors/grantees: same as above; additional contractors/grantees TBD.

FY 2006 Program

SO: 119-0340 Improved Quality and Access to Basic Education in Target Areas

Achieve Equitable Access to Quality Basic Education

Achieve Equitable Access to Quality Basic Education (\$210,000 FSA, \$5,350 FSA carryover). Funding in FY 2006 will be used primarily for program management needs. USAID will continue to provide technical assistance to the Government to implement a pilot per capita finance model in five districts. This year, the Government will finalize a plan to monitor the pilots to ensure that outcomes are in line with desired results. USAID will also design a simple accounting system for use at the district level and provide training to districts on how to use it. Training for school administrators and local education authorities in school management will continue at the pilot schools. USAID will provide funding for a supplemental training and capacity building activity for secondary teachers. The mid-term assessment of the Basic Education Program recommended that USAID ensure that schools that have received primary level training receive some training for secondary teachers, as well. Principal contractors/grantees: Academy for Educational Development (prime), Open Society Institute (sub), Abt Associates (sub), and Aga Khan Foundation (prime).

FY 2007 Program

SO: 119-0340 Improved Quality and Access to Basic Education in Target Areas

Achieve Equitable Access to Quality Basic Education

Achieve Equitable Access to Quality Basic Education (\$195,000 FSA). USAID will explore opportunities to fund small-scale initiatives focusing on institutionalizing the reform process. Program directions may include integrating modern teaching methodologies in pre-service teacher training institutes, linking the institutes with the Professional Development Schools, and continuing to streamline education finance. Policy-level technical assistance may also be provided to the Ministry of Education for curriculum reform. Principal contractor/grantee: TBD (prime).

FY 2006 Program
SO: 119-0420 Cross-Cutting Programs

Program Support

Program Support:(\$1,400,000 FSA, \$666,794 FSA carryover, \$37,498 FSA prior year recoveries).

Participant Training Program: USAID will continue participant training to complement ongoing technical assistance in the following areas: improved environment for growth of small and medium enterprises, enhanced trade through cross-border opportunities, strengthened democratic culture, improved management of critical natural resources, increased utilization of quality primary health care, sources of conflict mitigated in target communities, and quality of education improved. Of particular note, the participant training program will focus on election monitoring and mass media in preparation for the upcoming presidential elections in Tajikistan. In spring 2006, a conference will be organized with training resources to bring together religious leaders from across the region to discuss religious extremism. More than 2,000 participants will be trained through participant training activities in Tajikistan during FY 2006. Principal contractors/grantees: Academy for Educational Development (prime).

Community Connections: In FY 2006, USAID will begin implementation of the Community Connections Program, a public diplomacy initiative previously funded by the State Department. Through the program, approximately 50 Tajik citizens per year will participate in exchanges to promote mutual understanding between the United States and Tajikistan through exposure to U.S. society and personal connections with Americans. The Community Connections Program will help achieve U.S. Government priorities in Tajikistan by targeting professional groups and individual entrepreneurs that are central to economic and democratic reform. Exchange programs will last from 3-5 weeks, and be tailored to the individual needs of participants. Principal contractor/grantee: World Learning (prime) and American Councils for International Education (sub).

Eurasia Foundation: The Eurasia Foundation will target approximately 20 NGOs that contribute to private sector development and civil society strengthening through small grants. The NGOs will also benefit from institutional strengthening through intensive planning, reporting, and financial management training. In particular, in FY 2006, Eurasia Foundation will focus on agriculture, launching a multi-donor livestock development program, media strengthening, trade promotion with Afghanistan, and opportunities for cross-border trade in the Ferghana Valley. Principal contractor/grantee: Eurasia Foundation (prime).

Program Support: A wide range of program support will continue to be funded, including evaluations, technical assistance, management needs, public outreach, and staff costs. As required, funding will enable USAID to take advantage of unanticipated opportunities to advance or reinforce USAID strategic objectives. Furthermore, USAID/CAR will expand outreach efforts to engage traditional religious leaders in the region. The goal of this initiative is to better inform religious leaders about USAID programs and to bridge the gap with traditional community leaders whose views, in the past, have not generally been incorporated into USAID programmatic decision making. In accomplishing this goal, USAID will conduct tours of its programs for religious leaders and the media, hold regular representational events with religious leaders, and work with technical assistance providers to incorporate religious leaders into development activities. Principal contractor/grantee: N/A.

FY 2007 Program
SO: 119-0420 Cross-Cutting Programs

Program Support

Program Support (\$1,288,000 FSA).

Community Connections: USAID will continue the Community Connections Program, providing both professionals and businessmen with the opportunity to learn about U.S. society while enhancing their knowledge in areas of expertise. Approximately 50 Tajik citizens will participate in the program during FY

2007. Principal contractors/grantees: World Learning (prime) and American Councils for International Education (sub).

Eurasia Foundation: The Eurasia Foundation will continue to provide grants and institutional strengthening on an open-door basis to approximately 20 NGOs in Tajikistan that work in the sectors of private enterprise development, civil society strengthening, and public administration. Principal contractor/grantee: Eurasia Foundation (prime).

Program Support: A wide range of program and personnel support activities will continue. As required, funding will enable USAID to support unanticipated opportunities to advance or reinforce USAID objectives. Additionally, religious outreach efforts will continue and be expanded, through tours for and representational events with religious leaders. Principal contractor/grantee: N/A.

Results Framework

119-0131 Improved Environment for the Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises

Program Title: Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

IR 1.3.1: Increased Opportunities to Acquire Business Information, Knowledge, and Skills

IR 1.3.2: More Responsive Financial Institutions, Instruments, and Markets

IR 1.3.3: Increased Implementation of Laws and Regulations

119-0161 Improved Management of Critical Natural Resources, Including Energy

Program Title: Energy and Water

IR 1.6.1: Increased Management Capacity in the Natural Resources Sector

IR 1.6.2: Improved Policy and Regulatory Framework

IR 1.6.3: Sustainable Models Developed for Integrated Natural Resources Management

IR 1.6.4: Public Commitment Established for Natural Resources Management Policies

119-0211 Strengthened Democratic Culture Among Citizens and Target Institutions

Program Title: Democratic Culture and Institutions

IR 2.1.1: Stronger and More Sustainable Civic Organizations

IR 2.1.2: Increased Availability of Information on Civic Rights and Domestic Public Issues

IR 2.1.3: Enhanced Opportunities for Citizen Participation in Governance

IR 2.1.4: More Effective, Responsive, and Accountable Local Governance

119-0240 Conflict Mitigation

Program Title: Conflict Prevention

IR 2.4.1: Strengthened Community Participation

IR 2.4.2: Improved Local Services Through Community Decisions

119-0320 Increased Utilization of Quality Primary Health Care for Select Populations

Program Title: Health and Population

IR 3.2.1: Select Populations are Better Informed about Personal Health Care Rights and Responsibilities

IR 3.2.2: Improved Quality of Health Care including Infectious Diseases and Maternal and Child Health

IR 3.2.3: Improved Use of Health Care Resources for Primary Health Care

IR 3.2.4: Improved Legislative, Regulatory, and Policy Framework

119-0340 Improved Quality and Access to Basic Education in Target Areas

Program Title: Improved Quality of and Access to Basic Education

IR 3.4.1: Improved Quality and Access to In-Service Teacher Education in Target Areas

IR 3.4.2: Increased Parent and Community Involvement in Target Areas

IR 3.4.3: Strengthened Institutional, Management, and Technical Capacity in the Education System

119-0420 Cross-Cutting Programs

Program Title: Cross-Cutting Programs